Enhancement of rental and reduction in free calls

2639. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have enhanced rental and reduced the number of free calls to commercial subscribers from 1st April, 2002;

(b) If so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government still propose to increase rental as the present telephone tariff is even now subsidized; and

(d) if so, the what are Government's plans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (d) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, which has been mandated under the TRAI Act, 1997 as amended by TRAI (Amendment Act, 2000), with the power of fixing tariff for telecom services, as a part of their tariff rebalancing exercise, has prescribed rentals and number of free calls for commercial subscribers with effect from 01.04.2002 *vide* their notification dated 14.3.2002. The tariffs for rental and free call limits prescribed by TRAI for commercial subscribers are given at Statement (*See* below) The tariffs prescribed by TRAI are in the form of ceiling within which the operators are free to fix their own tariff.

Statement

Monthly Rental for Commercial Subscribers as prescribed by TRAI, vide order No. 312-7/2001 dated 14.03.2002

	RURAL	URBAN (In Rs.)
Exchange System	Tariff for rental after 1.4.2002	Tariff for rental after 1.4.2002
Upto 999	120	160
1000-29999	160	160
30000-99999	220	220
>99999	310	310

Monthly Limit for free calls to commercial subscribers

	Limits after 1.4.2002
Rural	45
Urban	30

Release of commemorative stamp

2640. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would issue a commemorate stamp in the memory of Shri P.S. Varier, the founder of 'Kottakkal Arya Vaidya Sala' during the centenary celebrations of this firm in 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the reasons for delay in this regard; and

(d) the details of the proposed time-frame of the issue of the stamp?